

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Remarks with respect to 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 for "said tapering bore" in claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify this element.

Claim Remarks with respect to 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on DE 20304793 and CH 351726. In the grinder of the present invention the degree to which the peppercorns are ground is adjusted by simply displacing the two components (10, 16) axially with respect to one another so that the rib 32 moves between the discrete grooves 50, 52. This provides a very simple structure and a clear distinction, in terms of the ground product, between fine and coarse. Please see at least paragraphs 27-29 of Applicant's specification.

This distinguishes the invention from DE where rotation of the component 6 drives the non-rotatable component 5 axially guided by engagement between the spokes 52 and the axially extending grooves 32. The component 5 carries the toothed component 41 with it and hence the gap between components 41 and 42 is adjusted to vary the grinding gap. There are no parallel grooves and no rib which leaves one groove and enters the other to adjust the grinding gap. This also distinguishes the present invention from CH where the container 7 is rotated on the fitting 5 using the co-operating threading. The detents 15 enable a number of discrete settings to be obtained.

In both the cited specifications, relative axial movement between the components which carry the teeth results from the relative rotation of two components with respect to one another, the rotary motion being converted by threading into relative axial motion between the toothed components.

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CONCLUSION

It is believed that claims 1-5 are allowable over the cited art. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Mayo", written in a cursive style.

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